Ban on Export on Onion

1843. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had imposed ban on the export of onion;

(b) if so, when and whether Government now proposes to withdraw the ban on onion export; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has allowed export of 100,00 tonnes of all varieties of onions for the next two months i.e. December, 1999 and January, 2000.

Decline in Export of Car

1844. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite boom in car sales/production in India its export has gone down during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed, if any, for improving export of car in future; and

(d) units exported by five major players during this period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fall or negative trend in the export of cars is mainly due to the fact that markets in the developed countries are saturated with new car models brought out by automobile industries in these countries, protective mechanism adopted by most of the Asian countries through high tariff barriers and quantitative restrictions and an unfavourable global economic condition particularly on account of economic/currency crisis in South and East Asia, Russian and other East European countries.

(c) There is no exclusive scheme for promotion of export of cars. However, promotion of exports of this item, like other items in the

Engineering Sector has been the constant endeavour of the Government. Measures being provided to boost exports, including that of cars, consist of various provisions under the Export-Import Policy including Duty Exemption Scheme, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Special Import Licence, Duty Drawback Scheme, Exemption under Section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act, Assistance from Market Development Fund etc.

(d) The details of export of cars by five major exporters during the period April-October, 1999 are given below:

S.No.	Name of the exporter	Number of Units exported during April-October, 1999
1.	Maruti Udyog Ltd.	9,360
2.	Daewoo Motors (India) Ltd.	350
3.	Mercedes Benz India Ltd.	292
4.	Ind Auto Ltd.	147
5.	Telco	60

SOURCE: Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM)

Amendments of Patents Act

1845. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Patents (Amendment) Bill will be brought forward in the Winter Session;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the various interest groups have been consulted and their view points incorporated in the amending Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) In accordance with the obligations contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), India is